



April 2015

the wyoming game & fish department

# LANDER REGION newsletter

## Outreach

### Highlighting region-wide efforts

Regional personnel continue to put in extra effort to engage with the public throughout the state. Over the last two months 3400+ people have been contacted by Lander Region Game and Fish employees (around 40 employees). These efforts have been ongoing and spread across nongame, large carnivore, habitat and access, fisheries and wildlife sections/divisions. When it comes to outreach and education, you can find our varied work units side by side helping each other out. This month we would like to take the opportunity to highlight just a few of the ways we do this. Read on for more information and to see how you can be involved.

## With Education

### Fourth Grade Outdoor Education Day



2015 Lander fourth grade students and student leaders.

Serving Dubois, Rawlins, Lander and places between

## Inside This Month's Issue:

**With Education**– pg 1-3  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Outdoor Day &  
Rawlins Career Days.

**In the Office**– pg 3  
Visitor Center

**From the Field**– pg 4  
Coffee With a Warden &  
Fishing for Facts With a Biologist

**At the Hatchery**– pg 4-5  
Tours

**With Carnivores**– pg 5-6  
Reaching Out

**Of Interest**– pg 6  
Just a Sampling



Local agencies and organizations have joined together to plan and deliver the fifth annual Outdoor Education Day to connect kids and nature. Approximately 150, 4<sup>th</sup> grade students, teachers and parent volunteers from the Baldwin Creek Elementary School, Cornerstone Christian Academy and Lander Home-schoolers were in attendance. This year the event was precipitated by a visit the week before to most of the 4<sup>th</sup> grade classes to prime them for the event.

Students were pre-assigned to a small group of 10-12 students, led by a student leader from the Outdoor Education Program at Central Wyoming College (CWC). Each student was provided a "passport" to inspire thoughtful learning as they rotate through a series of activity stations aimed at increasing their knowledge and awareness of the great outdoors.

The CWC Sinks Canyon Center is the outdoor classroom for the event and professionals from local agencies and organizations instructed students at the following learning stations: leave no trace; wildlife i.d., wildlife ethics, and scat i.d.; plant and tree i.d.; large carnivore awareness; geology; weather, bird i.d. and fish i.d.



The intent of the Outdoor Education Day is to provide outdoor experiential education that encourages children to play in and explore nature. Inspiration for the event came from the landmark book "Last Child in the Woods." Author Richard Louv identified a phenomenon many knew existed but couldn't quite articulate: nature-deficit disorder. Louv wrote of the many benefits to children who engage in nature play: increased self-esteem, improved psychological and physical health and reduced stress, just to name a few.

Staff and students had a blast again this year and were energized by the event. Another success!

*Agencies and organizations who participated in this event include: CWC Sinks Canyon Center, U.S. Forest Service, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming Game and Fish Department, National Weather Service, Audubon Society, Wyoming State Forestry, U.W. Extension, Popo Agie Conservation District, Central Wyoming College, National Outdoor Leadership School*



## Education, cont'd

### Rawlins Career Days



*Warden Brady Frude with Rawlins 5<sup>th</sup> graders.*

Teal Joseph and Brady Frude participated in the Rawlins Elementary (5<sup>th</sup> grade) and Rawlins High School (10<sup>th</sup> grade) career days. They had approximately 60 students show up for five blocks at the high school and around 30 students show up for five blocks at the elementary school.

Brady and Teal set up a warden games challenge at the high school where they split the kids into groups and had them complete a relay race consisting of identifying tracks in the dirt, classifying antelope, setting a live trap, locating and analyzing ballistic evidence and writing a written warning for a fishing violation. At the elementary school they brought several hides, different trap types/styles (a leghold, conibear and live trap) and an old .30-06 that was shot after the muzzle was stuck in the dirt.

## In the Office

### Visitor Center



Hundreds if not thousands of visitors, school groups (pre-K through college), organizations and artists have visited the diorama display in the Lander Regional Office this year alone. The educational center features a few Lander area habitats with samples of the common plants and animals found there. The display is coupled with educational signage, hands on learning, a scavenger hunt, teaching tools and staff led tours (scheduled) for visitors to enjoy. Stop by and enjoy our museum!





## From the Field

### Coffee with a Warden

**You're Invited:** 'Coffee with a Warden'

**Saturday, May 23, 9:00 - 11:00 a.m.**

Lander Bake Shop, 259 Main St.

**\*\*Hosted by outgoing Lander Game Warden Brad Hovinga and Incoming Game Warden Brady Frude. For more information, call Brad at 307-332-2704.**



*Brady Frude with students.*

### Fishing for Facts with a Biologist



*Paul Gerrity with 4<sup>th</sup> grade students at Outdoor Education Day.*

**You're Invited:** 'Fishing for Facts with a Biologist'

**Friday, May 29, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.**

Lip Rippers Bait & Tackle, 113 W 2nd St., Shoshoni.

**\*\*Hosted by Biologists Joe Deromedi and Paul Gerrity and Wardens Jessica Beecham and Brad Gibb. For more information, contact Joe or Paul at 307-332-2688.**

## At the Hatchery

### Tours



*Dubois Fish Hatchery.*

The Dubois fish hatchery offers tours to school groups and the general public. Recently 4<sup>th</sup> graders from the Arapahoe school and Lander middle school students spent outings learning about fish culture, water management, predators at the hatchery and disease treatment and control. The spring is an exciting time to visit as you will often find all life stages from egg to adult at the hatchery.



Here and at right: a hatchery tour for Forever Wild Families.

## Finding the Dubois

**Hatchery:** 5 miles east of Dubois on Highway 26, then 1.5 miles south on Fish Hatchery Court along the Jakeys Fork Creek. Self-guided tours are available 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily all year and guided tours are available by making a reservation.



## With the Carnivores Reaching Out



Large carnivore employees teaching 4<sup>th</sup> graders in the field.

Embracing the inherent interest with large carnivores, the Large Carnivore Section makes every effort to engage the public and relay all forms of relevant information on the ecology and management of large carnivores throughout the state of Wyoming. On the Game and Fish webpage are links to weekly, monthly and annual updates on grizzly bear management, as well as links to a multitude of annual reports, management plans, identification quizzes and everything imaginable on bears, mountain lions and wolves in order to inform and educate our constituents who enjoy wildlife and recreate in Wyoming. In addition we enjoy reaching out one on one or to groups through news releases, public service announcements, dozens (if not hundreds) of public presentations/booths throughout the state on carnivore safety and ecology and a multitude of radio, newspaper, magazine and television interviews. All in an effort to educate the public about these amazing animals we are passionate about and to further understanding of how they are managed.







Dan Thompson, large carnivore supervisor turning on his radio personality.



Large carnivore employees teach boy scouts how to use bear spray.

## Of Interest

### Just a Sampling

Throughout the rest of the year, the Lander region is engaged in many other educational, outreach and citizen science projects. If you would like to become involved, we would love to include you. Please contact Rene Schell at 307-332-2688 and see below for a sampling of efforts we do in addition to those above.

- **5th and 6th Grade Hunter Education** in Dubois
- **Owl programs**-taking our live Great Horned Owl (Jupiter) to Schools to teach on subjects ranging from art to science.
- **Wyoming Outdoor Weekend and Expo** -Lander in June and we will be holding/teaching several learning sessions throughout the week-end. <http://www.wyomingoutdoorexpo.com/>
- **Hunting and Fishing Expo** in Riverton.
- All **Lander first graders** attend a hands-on learning session about **animal adaptations**.
- **Boy Scout merit badge day**-working cooperatively with multiple agencies on multiple merit badges that the boys can earn on a given day. We co-host the wildlife management badge (8 hour session) with USFWS.
- **Habitat Hikes**-leading kids on a hike and discussing habitats and the animals that live there.
- **Large Carnivore Safety Presentations** - across the state and to a wide range of groups these presentations are some of the most popular in the region.
- **Fish Biology/ Fishing learning sessions** - for a couple school programs throughout the summer our fish biologists set gill nets and then pull them with grade school students to learn about fish biology, often followed by fishing.
- **Kids Fishing Day's** -Lander, Riverton and Dubois-in addition to fishing, at some events kids attend learning stations and release fish too.
- **School/ Camp Programs** - this year some topics will be bats, wolves, owls, adaptations, wildlife management, fish biology, animals and seasons.
- **Booths** -many of our booths are focused on reaching both children and adults, and usually **include a learning activity for children**. Some booths this year have been or will be: The Winter Fair, The Backyard Expo, The Trapper's Convention.



← Come visit us here!



We will be offering 'Coffee With a Warden' and other learning sessions on fish biology, aquatic invasive species, and reptiles and amphibians of the Lander Region.

<http://www.wyomingoutdoorexpo.com/>

